

November 25, 1959.

Honorable Fred A. Seaton,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

REPORT ON YAKIMA INDIANS

Sir:

I report herewith cumulative evidence of the crimes of the crime ring operating from the White House and offices under your responsibility to destroy the American Indians. I have just returned from an observation trip to the Yakima Reservation in Washington where I had an opportunity to address, and observe, an assembly of the Yakima Nation as it conducted an election to fill vacancies of its tribal council. Here I was able to confirm once more the pattern of crimes and corruption present on other reservations as already brought to your attention - Hopi, Navajo, Ute, Paiute, Tuscaroras and others. Your henchmen display an extraordinary lack of originality, under the theory, apparently, that if the "gimmick" works why go to the trouble of changing it? Note the report to me of responsible leaders:

The presence of an illegal tribal council (which has usurped the functions established by the Treaty of 1855, of an original council of the Chiefs of 14 different Indian bands), blotting out the age-old system of traditional chiefs and replacing it with a "puppet" government amenable to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Glenn L. Emmons and his "puppet" agents.

This illegal council, operating without a constitution or orderly governmental procedures: issuing the vicious "Umstach" Resolution - 1956 (named after its present chairman, George Umstach), which established an absolute bureaucratic dictatorship through a "rigged" vote of slightly over 100 adults in a total population of 5,000; making vital decisions arbitrarily and without reference to the membership; holding secret sessions from which the membership is barred; squandering Yakima Finances in evident conspiracy with Glenn L. Emmons (the sum of 86 million dollars is mentioned as involved); speeding the nation toward bankruptcy; refusing to make financial reports to the membership covering finances received; permitting brazen theft of cut timber; exploiting valuable timber resources to the advantage of big timber operators with indications of conspiracy; converting cut timber lands to unseeded barrens; using tribal funds to reward its friends and punish its enemies; voting itself handsome compensations and special privileges while Indians entitled to relief go hungry; kidnapping minor children from parents and removing them to concealed destinations to break up the cohesion of the Yakimas; overriding the mandate of an assembly by "rigging" a special committee dispatched to Washington for redress, for which it is currently under suit by one of the injured members; establishing a gambling joint on the reservation, which has become a center of lawlessness, and where Indians are cheated of the shirts off their backs; etc.; etc.; etc.

The special election which I observed nauseated me and was of a nature to make the angels weep by reason of its flagrant, open, arrogant frauds which would do credit to Tammany Hall, or to that other Indian renegade, Paul Jones of the Navajos. The election "rigged" in advance by Umtuch and his henchmen; long political speeches permitted in favor of the "puppets" in order to create dissention against "mixed bloods" thus raising racial issues; a hard core of instructed members holding the balance of power on every ballot; balloting by a raising of hands instead of by secret ballot, constituting voting under duress since all opposed to the "puppets" would be subjected to reprisals; little prevention of the possibility that members might vote more than once or that the teller might run up the score on his counter in favor of the "puppets"; in general a "steam roller" election without a shred of true democratic processes as is proven by the re-election of every member of the "puppet" council. A variant of the Ute technique was used to create dissentions. There a "puppet" council of mixed bloods has been established, applying a "blood count" of Indian

blood favorable to the mixed bloods, to maintain them in power and cut down the full blood Utes who are rightfully in possession of these lands. Here a "puppet" council of full blood Yakimas is set up to create disunity on a like basis of Indian "blood count" to cut off the mixed bloods who are fighting desperately, along with enlightened full bloods, to unite all Yakimas for justice, and for orderly, lawful government. In both cases the fundamental issue is greed and corruption, inspired from Washington. In the Yakima situation Indian Agent Floyd Phillips must share responsibility for the existing corruption.

The situation of lawlessness of "puppets" on the Yakima and other Indian reservations, involving Umtuch of the Yakimas; the Indian Agent of the Paiutes; O'Harra of the Hopis; and Paul Jones of the Navajoes, is merely the reflection of the lawlessness imposed upon the people of the United States by "puppet" Dwight D. Eisenhower and his "puppet" claim-jumpers and gun-slingers in Washington. One can understand men fighting men, but may those be damned who fight women, infants and the aged, with weapons of starvation and destitution! The savagry of the black-hearted White Washington outlaws is something new in the annals of history, for they fight and destroy their own kind.

I require of you in this case, as I already have in others, that you initiate action to force a thorough investigation of this situation on the Yakima Reservation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under J. Edgar Hoover, under the supervision of dedicated retired jurists, to expose the crimes so flagrantly and openly committed, and to bring the guilty to justice. The death penalty would not be inappropriate for these cold-blooded criminals. The investigation should include a thorough audit of the finances of the tribal council and implications of conspiracy with Glenn L. Emmons and his agents to betray and swindle the Yakimas. We realize that there can be no final solution of corruption on the reservations until we have solved the problem of corruption within the government of the United States, but this, too, may soon be achieved as our government continues down its road toward chaos out of which many changes will surely emerge. It is needless to point out that your failure to respond to my reports of gross crimes against the peace of the nation make you - and others having knowledge of these crimes - accessory before and after the fact.

Herbert C. Holdridge
Brigadier General, US Army (Retired)